

### REMARKS

Claims 2-12, 14-19, 21-23, 25 and 27-28 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 2, 6-7, 9-10, 14, 16-17 and 27 are amended and claims 1, 13 and 26 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Office Action's indication that claims 18, 19, 21-23, 25 and 28 are allowed and that claims 2-17 and 27 contain allowable subject matter. By this Amendment, each of claims 2, 7, 10, 14, 16, 17 and 27 are rewritten into independent form. Thus, each of the independent claims defines patentable subject matter.

Each of the dependent claims depends from one of the independent claims and therefore defines patentable subject matter at least for this reason. In addition, the dependent claims recite features that further and independently distinguish over the applied references.

### CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 2-12, 14-19, 21-23, 25 and 27-28 are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, David C. Oren, at the telephone number listed below.

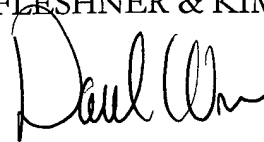
To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this,

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concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and  
please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,  
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